

# **ACCESS GUIDE**



## Bryce Canyon National Park

## **SERVICES**

#### **VISITOR CENTER**

Two moderately sloping ramps lead from the parking lot to the Visitor Center. The building is equipped with a lowered information/sales desk and fully accessible auditorium with a 22-minute film (captioned version available upon request). Restrooms have fully-accessible stalls.

#### **RESTROOMS**

Accessible restroom stalls are available at the Visitor Center, Bryce Canyon Lodge, the General Store, Loop A and the group site of Sunset Campground, Farview Point, and Rainbow Point. Restrooms at Sunset Point are accessible with assistance.

#### **CAMPING**

Sites 223 and 224 in Loop A of Sunset Campground are reserved for visitors with mobility impairments. These sites offer pull-through access, picnic tables with extensions, and stand-up fire grills. The sites are located across from a fully accessible restroom. Sunset Campground is closed during winter months (typically mid-October through late April).

#### LODGING

The Sunrise Unit of Bryce Canyon Lodge (303-297-2757 or 435-834-5361) has rooms designed for handicapped access with adjacent handicapped parking facilities. Motel rooms outside the park also offer accessible rooms. Specify that you would like these rooms when you make reservations.

#### HORSEBACK RIDING

The two-hour horseback ride below the rim is a great way to see the rock formations if you have a strong sense of balance and some upper leg muscle control. For more information, contact Canyon Trail Rides at the Bryce Canyon Lodge or call 435-834-5500 or 435-679-8665.

#### **HEARING IMPAIRED**

A captioned version of the 22-minute film shown in the Visitor Center auditorium is available upon request for those with hearing impairments.

## **RANGER PROGRAMS**

During the summer, National Park Service rangers offer several walks and talks which are accessible to visitors with mobility impairments. Some activities are listed below, but check the activity schedule at the visitor center for exact times and locations.

**GEOLOGY TALK** Join a ranger for a 30-minute talk on the geologic features of Bryce Canyon. Talks are held at the lowest level of Insipration Point. Learn the story behind the scenery, while enjoying a canyon view.

**RIM WALK** Enjoy the afternoon colors and longer shadows as a ranger discusses Bryce Canyon's geology and natural and cultural history. This 1½ hour walk follows the rim along a paved, relatively level section of trail.

**EVENING PROGRAMS** Auditoriums in both the Visitor Center and Bryce Canyon Lodge are wheelchair accessible. The Sunset Campground Campfire Circle also has a paved, gently-sloping sidewalk leading up to the seating area. Evening program topics are posted on campground and visitor center bulletin boards. *North Campground Amphitheater is not recommended for wheelchairs.* 

### **VIEWPOINTS**

Most viewpoints are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs with handicapped parking and ramps. If you tire easily, you may want to have assistance to and from some overlooks as elevations range between 2,440 and 2,777 meters (8,000 and 9,100 feet).

FAIRYLAND POINT - Unpaved viewpoint, 30m (97 ft) from parking to overlook - good access.

**SUNRISE POINT** - Unpaved trail, approximately 170m (515 ft) to the rim - **fair access**. Additional 198m (654 ft) beyond horse trail sign to actual viewpoint. Steep, unpaved trail - **not recommended**.

SUNSET POINT - Flat, paved trail, about 156m (515 ft) to the viewing area - very good access.

**INSPIRATION POINT** - Paved sloping trail, 81m (267 ft) to LOWER OVERLOOK - **good access**. Additional 371m (1225 ft) unpaved trail to the MIDDLE AND UPPER OVERLOOKS. Steep and rough - **not recommended**.

**BRYCE POINT** - Paved viewpoint, 51m (168 ft) to first overlook - **very good access**. Steep 230m (760 ft) paved trail (without handrails) to the end of the viewpoint - **not recommended**.

**PARIA POINT** - Paved viewpoint, 39m (129 ft) to first overlook. Additional 247m (631 ft) paved, sloping trail to the end of the viewpoint - **good access**.

FARVIEW - Paved viewpoint, 21m (70 ft) to overlook - very good access.

**PIRACY POINT** - Fairly level, unpaved trail, 308m (1018 ft) from Farview Point parking lot - **fair** access (when dry).

**NATURAL BRIDGE** - Paved, level viewpoint offers immediate viewing, 18m (61 ft) - **very good access**.

**AGUA CANYON** - Paved, level viewpoint offers immediate viewing, 16m (54 ft) - **very good access**.

**PONDEROSA CANYON** - Paved, level viewpoint offers immediate viewing, 9m (32 ft) - **very good access**.

**BLACK BIRCH CANYON** - Rough, unpaved trail with slight incline, 43m (141 ft), no handicapped parking - **fair access** (when dry).

**YOVIMPA POINT** - Paved trail, about 239m (790 ft) to viewing area - **very good access**. Also accessible from Rainbow Point - Additional 123m (408 ft) along paved walkway.

**RAINBOW POINT** - Paved viewpoint, 42m (139 ft) to first overlook. Additional 97m (321 ft) paved, sloping trail to end of view point - **very good access**. Also accessible from Yovimpa Point.

## **TRAILS**

Few trails at Bryce Canyon are currently suitable for handicapped access. The two described below are the best trails for even partial accessibility.

**RIM TRAIL** The .8 km (.5 mile) section of trail between Sunset Point and Sunrise Point is paved and relatively level. It offers exceptional views of the Queen's Garden and Bryce Amphitheater.

**BRISTLECONE LOOP TRAIL** Only short sections of this trail, adjacent to Rainbow Point, should be attempted by most visitors with mobility impairments. For the more athletic, this 1.6 km (1-mile) gravel loop trail meanders through a Douglas-fir and white fir forest, opening midway to a spectacular view of southern Utah and an encounter with a 1,600-year old Bristlecone pine. While this trail stays on top of the plateau, there are some steep hills.